



# Drought Information Statement for the Main Hawaiian Islands

Valid November 8, 2023

Issued By: WFO Honolulu, HI

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- This product will be updated December 8, 2023 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/hfo/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



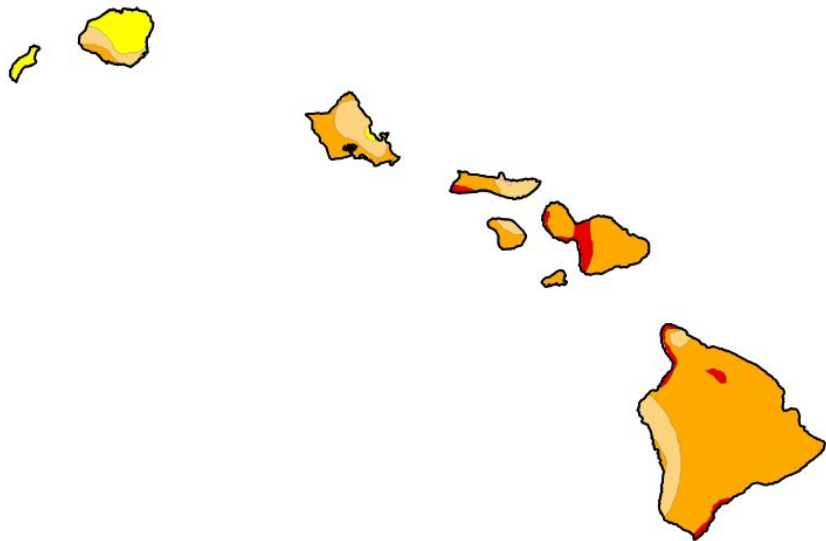


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the main Hawaiian Islands

- Severe drought covers more than half of the state.
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): Leeward Maui County and localized regions of the Big Island.
  - D2 (Severe Drought): Covers more than half the state, and more than 85% of Maui County and the Big Island.
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Covers relatively small areas not in D2 or worse.
- Kaua'i County has the best conditions, with D1 and D2 limited to the lower leeward slopes.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 10/31/23



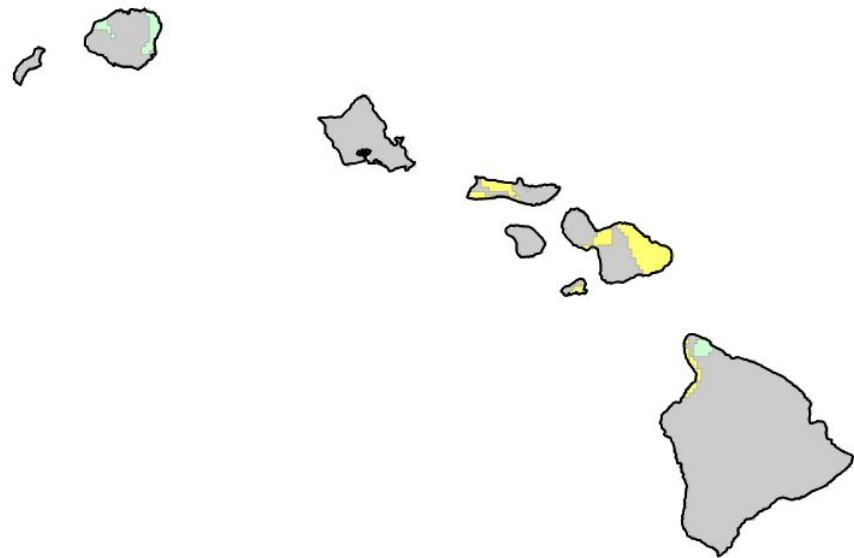


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

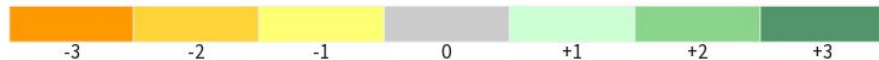
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for the main Hawaiian Islands

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Maui County and the lower leeward slopes of the Kohala Mountains on the Big Island.
  - Drought Improved: Limited areas of the Kohala Mountains and the Kaua'i.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 10/31/23





- Below average rainfall totals were recorded over most areas of the state in October.
- Hilo Airport on the Big Island posted its lowest October rainfall total on record (back to 1949).
- Records for the lowest October rainfall were broken at more than a dozen sites on O'ahu.

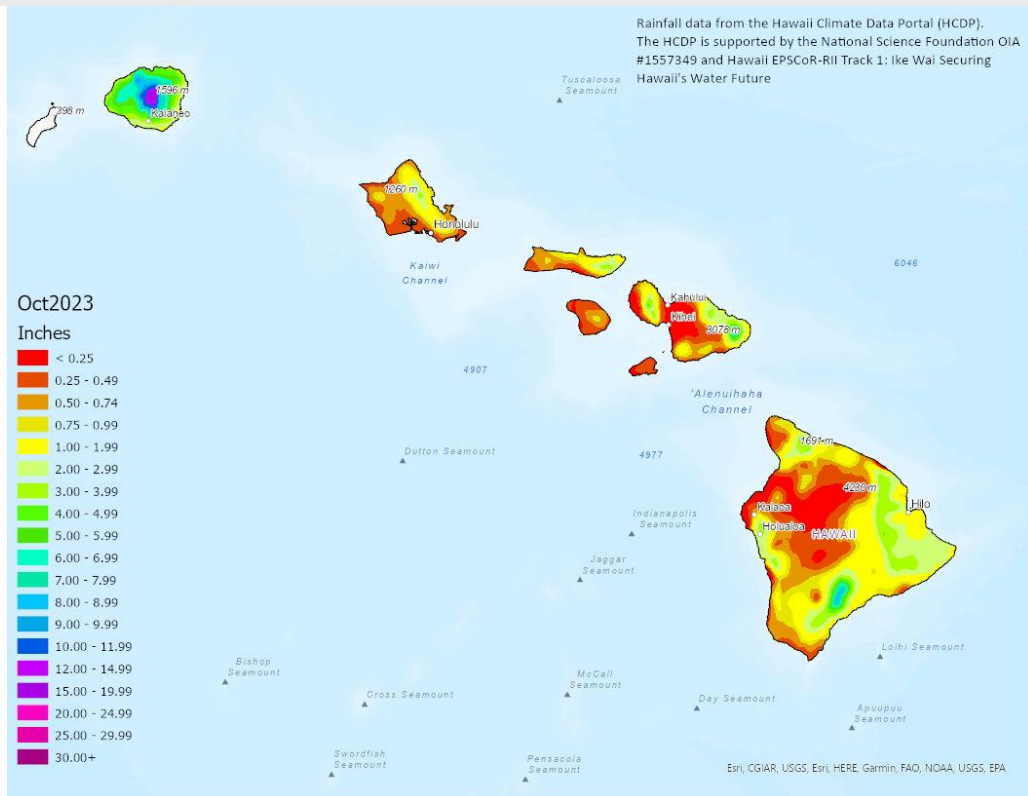


Image Captions: October 2023 rainfall totals (in inches) from the Hawai'i Climate Data Portal.





# Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Agricultural Impacts

- Pasture conditions remain very poor in the leeward portions of the state. The worst conditions were on Maui along the leeward slopes of Haleakalā, and on the Big Island along the leeward slopes of Mauna Kea and the lower slopes of the Kaʻū District. Producers are continuing to haul water and supplement food with bales of grass and mineral tubs due to insufficient forage. Some producers have reported shortages of feed from vendors. Invasive species have been increasingly encroaching onto farm lands due to poor forage conditions elsewhere.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Brush fires continue to be a significant threat to public safety due to the ongoing dry conditions. On October 30, a brush fire ignited in a remote and normally wet area along the Koʻolau Mountains of Oahu. The fire has burned more than 1300 acres so far. No structures have been directly threatened by the fire.

## Mitigation Actions

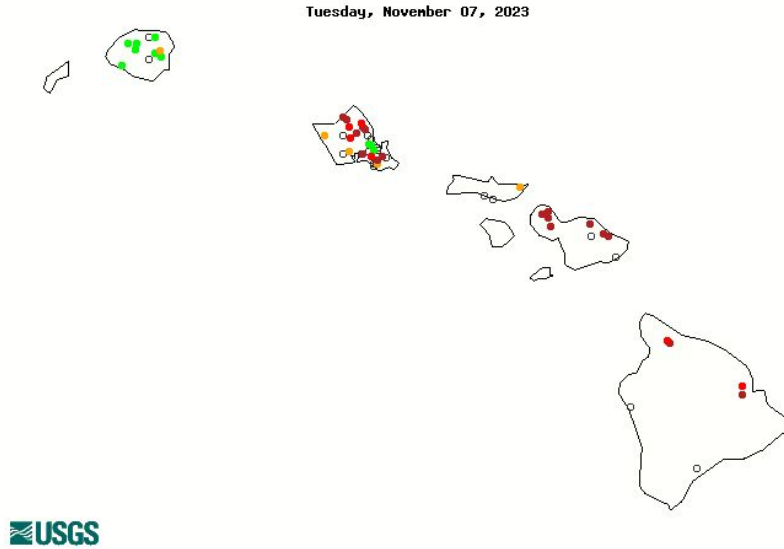
- The State Dept. of Transportation has been clearing dry vegetation along roadways in portions of the state to mitigate fire risk.
- The Maui County Department of Water Supply declared a Stage 2 Water Shortage for the Upcountry water service area on Maui. The declaration prohibits use of water for irrigation, watering lawns, washing vehicles, and other non-essential activities.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Most of the gages across the state indicated well below normal 14-day average flow levels.
- The 28-day average flow levels had a similar number of sites in the below normal range.



| Explanation - Percentile classes |                   |              |        |              |                   |      |            |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|--------------|-------------------|------|------------|
|                                  |                   |              |        |              |                   |      |            |
| Low                              | <10               | 10-24        | 25-75  | 76-90        | >90               | High | Not-ranked |
|                                  | Much below normal | Below normal | Normal | Above normal | Much above normal |      |            |

Image Caption: USGS 14 day average streamflow map valid November 7, 2023





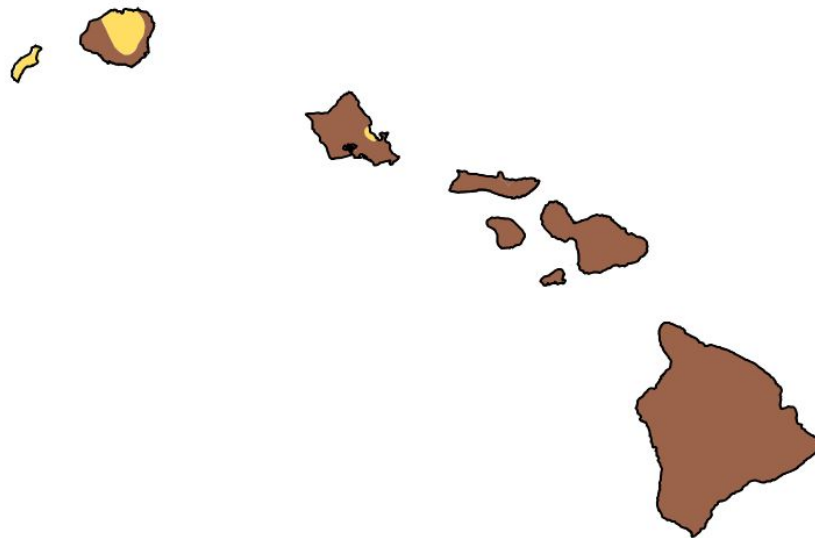


# Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Over the next 3 months, drought is expected to develop or persist over the entire State of Hawai‘i.
- The ongoing El Niño will likely result in below normal precipitation across the main Hawaiian Islands well into 2024.
- Previous strong El Niño events have resulted in less than 50 percent of average rainfall during the October through April Hawaiian Islands wet season.

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



### Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 10/31/23

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)  
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



**National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration**  
U.S. Department of Commerce

**National Weather Service**  
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